



**NEW ENGLAND  
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items  
2008**

**Grade 5  
Reading**

# Reading

- ❶ The words uncertain and unchanged have a prefix (beginning) that means
- A. not.
  - B. against.
  - C. opposite.
  - D. never.

Her favorite subject has always been science.

- ❷ Which sentence uses the word subject as it is used in the box?
- A. We learned that one part of a sentence is called the subject.
  - B. He talked about his trip and another subject.
  - C. What is the subject of your book report?
  - D. What subject does Mr. Garcia teach?

*Read this story about a girl who creates a garden in her neighborhood. Then answer the questions that follow.*

## **Tanya's City Garden**

*by Michelle Dionetti*

Tanya leaned out her apartment window. She looked down to the cement alley below. The brick walls were old and dirty. The fire hydrant needed paint.

There was nothing good to look at. Tanya sighed and shook her head.

"Look, Ramon," she said to her brother. "Everything out there is gray!"

Ramon looked out the window, too.

"What can YOU do about it?" he asked.

"I'm going to make a garden," said Tanya.

"In the cement?" hooted Ramon.

"Just wait and see!" said Tanya.

Tanya pulled a plastic rose out of the vase on her dresser. She put the rose in a jar. Then she grabbed a broom and took the vase down to the sidewalk.

The alley between the buildings was filthy. Tanya's broom stirred up swirls of dust. When the cement was clean, she put her rose in the middle of the alley.

"What's that?" called Ms. Jones, leaning out of her window.

"It's a garden!" Tanya called back.

Ms. Jones studied the little flower. "So it is," she agreed. "If you'll come upstairs to my apartment, I'll give you something else for your garden."

Ms. Jones met Tanya at the door with a geranium in a pot.

"Oh, thank you!" exclaimed Tanya.

"You'll have to water it," warned Ms. Jones.

"I will," promised Tanya.

**18** Tanya set the geranium next to the plastic rose. While she was admiring her garden, Gerald, the handyman, walked by.

**19** Gerald admired the garden, too. A twinkle came into his eyes. He smiled a mysterious smile.

**20** Ramon's teacher, Ms. Metoyer, stopped on her way home from school. "Very good, Tanya!" she said. "That's showing initiative!"

**21** Max, the artist, walked by. "What a nice splash of color in all this gray!" he cried.

**22** Mrs. Primrose, the florist, stopped. "I didn't know you liked flowers," she said.

The only person who didn't stop to admire the garden was Miriam Grand, the television executive. She was always too busy to stop for anything.

The next morning, Tanya took a glass of water down to her garden. While she watered the geranium, Gerald came along the sidewalk, carrying something heavy. Grunting, he set it down.

"What a beautiful bench," said Tanya, admiring the red paint. "Thank you!"

Gerald sat on the bench, puffing. "It will be nice to have a bench here," he said.

Ms. Metoyer marched down the street. Behind her came Ramon's class. Each student carried something. One of the somethings was a long wooden box.

"May we put this planter in your garden and plant our seeds?" asked Ms. Metoyer.

Tanya clapped her hands. "That will make it a real garden!" she said.

The students put the planter across from Gerald's bench. They filled the planter with dirt, planted the seeds, and watered them. Tanya sat on the bench next to Gerald and watched proudly.

“I have an idea,” said Max the artist. He held a box of paints and a fistful of brushes. “You can’t grow grass here,” said Max. “And you can’t see much sky. I’ll paint you a view!”

With his paints, Max turned the brick apartment walls into a scene of hills and trees and sky. He let Ramon’s class paint in flowers and bugs and birds.

Mrs. Primrose, the florist, came down the sidewalk pulling a wagon. In the wagon was a potted tree, which she placed near the bench.

Then down the street came Miriam Grand, the television executive. Clip, clip, clip went the heels of her shoes. When she came to Tanya’s garden, she stopped with a jerk.

“What’s this?” she cried.

**36** “It’s a city garden!” chorused Tanya, Ramon, Ms. Jones, Gerald, Ms. Metoyer, Ramon’s class, Mrs. Primrose, and Max.

“It’s a story!” cried Miriam Grand. “It’s news!”

And away she ran, her heels clip-clip-clipping, to call her office.

Soon a shiny car and a big van stopped at the end of the alley. Out of the car jumped the

mayor of the city. Out of the van jumped a camera crew.

“Who started the garden?” they asked.

“Tanya!” everyone shouted, pushing her forward.

The mayor cleared his throat. The cameras started rolling.

“I present this Ribbon of Honor to Tanya,” said the mayor, “as an award for beautifying the city!”

Tanya took the award in her hand and looked around her. The brick walls were no longer dirty. The alley was clean. The garden was beautiful to look at.

Then Tanya looked around at her neighbors and smiled.

“Thank you, Mr. Mayor,” she said, “but this is not my garden. It’s our garden!”

She hung the ribbon on the fire escape. “So this award is for all of us,” she cried. And Tanya’s neighbors—her fellow city gardeners—cheered.

- 3 What is the **main** problem at the beginning of the story?
- A. Ramon wants Tanya to stop thinking about the alley.
  - B. Tanya does not know how to create a garden.
  - C. Tanya does not like how the neighborhood looks.
  - D. The neighbors are too busy to help Tanya.

- 4 At the beginning of the story, how does Tanya's brother, Ramon, react to his sister's idea?
- A. He is jealous of his sister.
  - B. He agrees with her plan.
  - C. He is willing to help his sister.
  - D. He laughs at her plan.

- 5 A synonym (same meaning) for the word admire is
- A. save.
  - B. greet.
  - C. like.
  - D. believe.

- 6 What do paragraphs 18 through 22 describe?
- A. how Tanya enjoys the garden
  - B. the appearance of the garden
  - C. what Tanya learns about creating a garden
  - D. the neighbors' excitement about the garden

- 7 Explain how Tanya shows she is a caring person in the story. Use details from the story to support your answer.

- 8 How do the neighbors support Tanya's idea for a garden?
- A. They take pictures of the garden.
  - B. They hire people to build the garden.
  - C. They help her develop the garden.
  - D. They write a story about the garden.
- 9 How does the television executive change toward the end of the story?
- A. She wants to have more free time.
  - B. She shows an interest in the garden.
  - C. She moves into a new neighborhood.
  - D. She offers to help Tanya with the garden.
- 10 In paragraph 36, the word chorused means that the people
- A. laughed aloud.
  - B. spoke together.
  - C. pushed forward.
  - D. thought quickly.
- 11 What is the **main** message in this story?
- A. It is important to become famous.
  - B. Everyone has different interests.
  - C. One person can make a change.
  - D. People should be responsible for their actions.
- 12 Explain how the people in the story work together to change the neighborhood. Use details from the story to support your answer.

# Acknowledgments

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## Grade 5 Reading Released Item Information

Released Item Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Content Strand <sup>1</sup>	WV	WV	LI	LA	WV	LI	LA	LA	LI	WV	LA	LI
GLE Code	4-2	4-3	4-4	4-5	4-3	4-4	4-5	4-5	4-4	4-3	4-5	4-4
Depth of Knowledge Code	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Item Type <sup>2</sup>	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR
Answer Key	A	D	C	D	C	D		C	B	B	C	
Total Possible Points	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	4

<sup>1</sup>Content Strand: WV = Word ID/Vocabulary, LI = Literary/Initial Understanding, LA = Literary/Analysis & Interpretation,  
 II = Informational/Initial Understanding, IA = Informational/Analysis & Interpretation

<sup>2</sup>Item Type: MC = Multiple Choice, CR = Constructed Response





**NEW ENGLAND  
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items  
Support Materials  
2008**

**Grade 5  
Reading**

**NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS**  
**GRADE 5 READING**

**4.2.1 Students identify the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary by** using strategies to unlock meaning (e.g., knowledge of word structure, including prefixes/suffixes and base words; or context clues; or other resources, such as dictionaries, glossaries; or prior knowledge)

- ❶ The words uncertain and unchanged have a prefix (beginning) that means
- A. not.
  - B. against.
  - C. opposite.
  - D. never.

**4.3.2 Shows breadth of vocabulary knowledge through demonstrating understanding of word meanings or relationships by** selecting appropriate words to use in context, including content specific vocabulary, words with multiple meanings, or precise vocabulary

Her favorite subject has always been science.

- ❷ Which sentence uses the word subject as it is used in the box?
- A. We learned that one part of a sentence is called the subject.
  - B. He talked about his trip and another subject.
  - C. What is the subject of your book report?
  - D. What subject does Mr. Garcia teach?

## Tanya's City Garden Literary Text

**4.4.1 Demonstrate initial understanding of elements of literary texts by** identifying or describing character(s), setting, problem/solution, major events, or plot, as appropriate to text; or identifying any significant changes in character(s) over time

- 3 What is the **main** problem at the beginning of the story?
- A. Ramon wants Tanya to stop thinking about the alley.
  - B. Tanya does not know how to create a garden.
  - C. Tanya does not like how the neighborhood looks.
  - D. The neighbors are too busy to help Tanya.

**4.5.2 Analyze and interpret elements of literary texts, citing evidence where appropriate by** describing main characters' physical characteristics or personality traits; or providing examples of thoughts, words, or actions that reveal characters' personality traits

- 4 At the beginning of the story, how does Tanya's brother, Ramon, react to his sister's idea?
- A. He is jealous of his sister.
  - B. He agrees with her plan.
  - C. He is willing to help his sister.
  - D. He laughs at her plan.

## Tanya's City Garden Literary Text

**4.3.1 Shows breadth of vocabulary knowledge through demonstrating understanding of word meanings or relationships** by identifying synonyms, antonyms, homonyms/homophones, or shades of meaning

- 5 A synonym (same meaning) for the word admire is
- A. save.
  - B. greet.
  - C. like.
  - D. believe.

**4.4.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of elements of literary texts by paraphrasing or summarizing key ideas/plot, with major events sequenced, as appropriate to text**

- 6 What do paragraphs 18 through 22 describe?
- A. how Tanya enjoys the garden
  - B. the appearance of the garden
  - C. what Tanya learns about creating a garden
  - D. the neighbors' excitement about the garden

## Tanya's City Garden Literary Text

**4.5.2 Analyze and interpret elements of literary texts, citing evidence where appropriate** by describing main characters' physical characteristics or personality traits; or providing examples of thoughts, words, or actions that reveal characters' personality traits

- 7** Explain how Tanya shows she is a caring person in the story. Use details from the story to support your answer.

### Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of how Tanya shows she is a caring person in the story. Response includes relevant details from the story.
3	Response provides an explanation of how Tanya shows she is a caring person in the story. Response includes details from the story.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of how Tanya shows she is a caring person in the story. Response uses limited details from the story.
1	Response is vague or minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

### Training Notes:

Responses may include the following evidence to support the idea that Tanya is a caring person:

- She comes up with a plan to change her neighborhood.
- She uses her own flower.
- She is grateful to receive help from others.
- She shares her prize with the rest of her neighbors.

Details from the story should support these ideas.

SCORE POINT 4

7

Tanya is a caring person in many ways. One way that Tanya is caring is that she brightens up the city with her city garden. Another way is that Tanya allows other people and neighbors to plant in her garden. Also, once Tanya receives an award for her garden, Tanya gives the award to the garden and everyone who helped make it. Lastly, Tanya didn't laugh or make fun of her brother, Raymon once her garden became a success; even if Raymon made fun of her idea. Now you can see that Tanya is very caring.

Response provides a thorough explanation of how Tanya shows she is a caring person in the story. Response includes relevant details from the story.

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS  
GRADE 5 READING

SCORE POINT 3

7 Tanya is a very caring person because she tried to make the cement alley look nice. That shows she cares about her neighborhood. When Ms. Jones gave her the geranium, she waters it every day. That shows she cares about flowers and plants. When the mayor gave the ribbon to her, she shared it by putting it in the garden so that everyone can admire it. That shows she cares about her neighbors.

Response provides an explanation of how Tanya shows she is a caring person in the story.  
Response includes details from the story.



NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS  
GRADE 5 READING

SCORE POINT 2

7 Tanya is a caring person because she wanted to do something nice for her neighborhood. After her neighbors helped her and the news people were there she didn't take all the credit for herself, she included everyone.

Response provides a partial explanation of how Tanya shows she is a caring person in the story. Response uses limited details from the story.

SCORE POINT 1

7 She shows she is a caring person by planting a garden in her neighborhood so it would be more beautiful.

Response is vague or minimal.



NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS  
GRADE 5 READING

SCORE POINT 0

7

she can plant  
corn and different  
thing.

Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant

## Tanya's City Garden Literary Text

**4.5.3 Analyze and interpret elements of literary texts, citing evidence where appropriate by making inferences about problem, conflict, or solution**

- 8 How do the neighbors support Tanya's idea for a garden?
- A. They take pictures of the garden.
  - B. They hire people to build the garden.
  - C. They help her develop the garden.
  - D. They write a story about the garden.

**4.4.1 Demonstrate initial understanding of elements of literary texts by identifying or describing character(s), setting, problem/solution, major events, or plot, as appropriate to text; or identifying any significant changes in character(s) over time**

- 9 How does the television executive change toward the end of the story?
- A. She wants to have more free time.
  - B. She shows an interest in the garden.
  - C. She moves into a new neighborhood.
  - D. She offers to help Tanya with the garden.

## Tanya's City Garden Literary Text

**4.3.2** Shows breadth of vocabulary knowledge through demonstrating understanding of word meanings or relationships by selecting appropriate words to use in context, including content specific vocabulary, words with multiple meanings, or precise vocabulary

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- 10 In paragraph 36, the word chorused means that the people
- A. laughed aloud.
  - B. spoke together.
  - C. pushed forward.
  - D. thought quickly.

**4.5.5** Analyze and interpret elements of literary texts, citing evidence where appropriate by identifying author's message or theme

- 11 What is the **main** message in this story?
- A. It is important to become famous.
  - B. Everyone has different interests.
  - C. One person can make a change.
  - D. People should be responsible for their actions.

## Tanya's City Garden Literary Text

**4.4.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of elements of literary texts by paraphrasing or summarizing key ideas/plot, with major events sequenced, as appropriate to text**

- 12** Explain how the people in the story work together to change the neighborhood. Use details from the story to support your answer.

### Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of how the people in the story work together. Response includes relevant details from the story.
3	Response provides an explanation of how the people in the story work together. Response includes details from the story.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of how the people in the story work together. Response includes limited details from the story.
1	Response is vague or minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

### Training Notes:

Response will likely explain how the people in the story work together to create a garden. Students do not have to refer to all of the characters in the story but should mention some.

Details from the story should support these ideas.

12

Every one help a little bit to make the garden wonderful. Kenya started the idea and swept it up and put in the first plant. Mr. Jones gave Kenya a geranium plant to help the garden. Gerald made the bench, Mr. Metoyer and her class add a planter and planted seeds. Max the artist painted a view and grass that made the garden look pretty. And Mrs. Primrose the florist put in a potted tree. Every help to do the share and to make the city better with out the plants there would be no garden. with out a bench people would have nowhere to sit and paint make it look nice.

Response provides a thorough explanation of how the people in the story work together.  
Response includes relevant details from the story.

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS  
GRADE 5 READING

SCORE POINT 3

12

In that neighborhood, a lot of people helped out with Tanya's Garden! Ms. Jones gave her the first flower. Gerald gave her a bench. Ms. Metoyer and her class gave her a planter and seeds! Max painted the walk. Lastly Mrs. Primrose gave her a potted tree! Without her neighbors' help, Tanya wouldn't have a garden!

Response provides an explanation of how the people in the story work together.  
Response includes details from the story.



NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS  
GRADE 5 READING

SCORE POINT 2

12

The people in the story worked together by helping Tanya build a garden. Like when she brought in potted plants or when one guy brought in a bench. Just little things like that to make one big beautiful garden.

Response provides a partial explanation of how the people in the story work together.  
Response includes limited details from the story.

SCORE POINT 1

12

The people worked together by picking in to make the garden.

Response is vague or minimal.

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS  
GRADE 5 READING

SCORE POINT 0

12

People in the story work  
together to change the neighborhood  
By not littering, smoking, so  
the garden doesn't die.

Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.